



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

Helping Churches
Help people

September 2009

A note from the President

Dear Love INC Supporters,

I would encourage you to check out our interesting and informative Love INC website. It has SO MUCH information.

Being on the Board of Love INC is challenging and rewarding. It has stretched my faith and been such a blessing to see God at work in His people. If you are looking for something to give your life more meaning and purpose give Sherry a call. We are always looking for people to volunteer on the board and in the office.

Many of you support us in prayer and financially. We SO appreciate that and ask you to continue to do it.

Thank you,
Sharon Colyn
Board of Directors President

Love's Treasury

I just can't think of better, long lasting treasure than that of God's word for someone. I'm really excited about building our pre-owned Christian bookstore to help raise funds for the ministry and to be an encourager by connecting people with books and material that can help bring them closer to God at a very affordable price! It's amazing how a few \$14.95 books can add up and ours will range between \$2.00 (softcovers) to \$4.00 (hardcovers).

Please bring your treasury of Christian books that you have used and no longer are reading to our office to share with someone else and in the same time, helping us to help those in need who call us for help. Our office is open Monday – Thursday 9:30 a.m.-3:00p.m. in Lakewood at 9116 Gravelly Lake Dr. S.W. # B4 Lakewood WA 98499. If that is too far, maybe you are from the east side of the county, call Sherry at 253-468-6236 for an address in the Puyallup School District area and she will give you another address you can use.

Maybe your church can hold a book drive and collect them at your church! Then one person can deliver them all to us. I just know there are thousands of books on shelves not being used anymore that were very helping in bringing people closer to God because I have met so many awesome Christians who are growing in the Lord all the time!

We will have more info soon on when our Grand Opening will be! There will be discounts for Donors and Volunteers at the office will be able to check out books to borrow!

If you'd like to be a volunteer for our bookstore, helping to inventory or stock shelves and sell books email sherry at shephinisey@aol.com or call her at 253-468-6236

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Our mission is to mobilize the Church to transform lives and communities In the Name of Christ.

Board of Directors

Ministry Update September 2009

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Community Church
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*Pastor Barbara Dance Chosen Generation
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*Keith Miller Graham Evangelical Covenant
Church*

Contact us below:

www.lovein Piercecounty.org

Client Referral # 253-531-2366



"If your Church Leadership team would like to network with other area churches please give Sherry Phinisey a call 253-468-6236 and we will come talk to your ministry team about ways we can work together to make a far greater "Kingdom" impact on our community together than any one church can make alone."



Love Story Who's calling us for help?

Her name is changed, to protect her privacy, but Mary called our office early last month, out of desperation. They've always been a two income family and her husband lost his job and has been unemployed the last 5 months. They have one child and Mary is pregnant. They have very basic expenses, except two car payments that are relatively small, but with one income they aren't able to meet all their expenses. When she called us for help we found out her child had attended a churches vacation bible school and even though she didn't attend, we thought that was enough seed to get her connected, herself to the love and support of a church while they are struggling. We prayed with her, comforted and encouraged her and then suggested she call that church to get connected. We found two other churches to help with her rent, but we didn't ask the one church because we wanted to get the relationship started that wasn't based on just a financial need, but a spiritual one.

It's amazing how human church folk can be. The day Mary called the church, the person was in a hurry because he was in the office all alone and Mary felt like she was intruding and was just another one of those underprivileged people that were needy. She called us back for prayer and to say she didn't get the feeling the church had time for her when she called. Our intake person talked and listened more with her and prayed again with her. After the call, our intake person called the church and explained what had happened and how the lady had felt. They had mentioned how everyone in the church was out that day with only one person to answer all the calls. They truly wanted to make a difference in Mary's life and right away they had one of the elders call her and made a visit to her house and invited her to their church.

At the end of the month, Mary called us again. She had lost the baby and she wanted someone to share her grief with. She had told our intake person she appreciated so much having a place to call who would just pray with her. It was a heartbreaking call, but Mary was comforted and loved right over the phone. The next day, we also sent her a caring card just to let her know she was in our prayers and not alone. Pray with us for her. God knows who she is.....

Love in the Name of Christ is not only WHO we are it is WHAT we do. Thank you for your partnership in ministry and for supporting us as we serve together those God sends to us. Together we can do so much more than anyone of us alone.



Thank you for the gift given this month in memory of Pastor Dan Litzer

Thank you also to Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Bonney Lake 7th Day Adventist Church, Christ Community Baptist Church, Puyallup Nazarene Church, Calvary Community Church and The Tacoma Christian Reformed Community Church for giving above and beyond your regular contributions this month to help us with our financial hardship. We are so blessed to have you for partners in this ministry to our neighbors!





October 7th we are hosting a **Love INC fundraiser breakfast** at 7:00 am at Bethany Baptist Church. If you would be willing to be a table sponsor and invite 7 guests to come learn more about Love INC and support a ministry that makes a difference in our community for the kingdom, please call Sherry at 253-468-6236. We will be showing our new ministry DVD! It is \$150 to sponsor your table guests.



October 24th will be our first ever **Bowling Fundraiser at Daffodil bowl** in Puyallup from 1-4 pm. This will be a battle of the churches! Put together your best team of 6, your most creative team of 6 and have fun hanging out with a bowling alley full of Christians from churches around the county. The team entry fee is \$ 200.00. It will help cover our costs to rent the alley and bowl 3 games and have some fun prizes. We are hoping a little will be left over for the ministry if we get enough teams signed up. We can have a total of 30 teams. To sign up, Fill out this form and mail it with your check by October 15th to: Love INC 9116 Gravelly Lake Dr. S.W. Lakewood, WA 98499



Bowling Fundraiser

Name _____

Church Name _____

Address: _____

Email _____

Phone _____

After you send in your registration and entry fee you will



Volunteer of the Month: Russ Ellison

Many of our readers are familiar with the “Holding Crosses” Love INC has given to clergy, fire, police & hospital chaplains, to be given to those who are in crisis. This month I’d like to introduce one of our volunteers who has made at least 300 of them by now, Russ Ellison.

Russ is a long time member of Sumner Presbyterian church. He and his lovely wife of 47 years were high school sweethearts. They have lived in and around Sumner since about 5th grade and in Bonney Lake since graduating from college in 1967. They have raised 3 children and have been blessed with 4 grandchildren. One son lives in California, one in Bonney Lake and their daughter in Portland Oregon.

Volunteering came natural to Russ since he and Lanita are both very involved in the mission’s ministry at Sumner Presbyterian. They have been on disaster relief trips in the past and most recently a mission trip to Guatemala. They helped the Mayan Indians build portable wood cooking stoves to replace the open fires burning in their dwellings. Lung disease has limited the life expectancy to about 40 for the Mayans due to smoke inhalation.

Russ has a real heart for people in need and loves to help out wherever he can. His young at heart and friendly personality make it obvious to those who meet him that he is a man with a heart for God. It was at one of their mission’s board meetings that he learned about Love INC from one of our office volunteers, Diane Benson. When he found out about the holding crosses he knew he could put his workshop and tools to good use.

With each cross he handcrafts he prays and thinks about the hope it will give someone who is in crisis. That alone is a blessing to him, and he just keeps the saw and the hand sanding going for Love INC. On behalf of those in need and Love INC we thank Russ for all the love that goes into each cross. Seeing a need and being able to help out has brought Russ to volunteer. No matter what you are able to do, we can find a volunteer spot for you here at Love INC, “God can use every gift he gives his people to help in ministry”.



Spotlight on our staff: Sherry Phinisey



I don’t take pictures well, so I thought if I included a picture with my two good looking son’s it had to be a good picture! Some of you know my Love INC story, some may not, so I thought I’d share that, this month because God has done more than I could have imagined when I first heard him calling me to this ministry. In 2002 I saw an announcement in our church about Love INC needing a volunteer director and a volunteer office coordinator or they’d have to shut down. They didn’t have the money to afford paid positions any longer. I learned about Love INC mainly because I was employed at World Vision and at the time Love INC nationally was under the umbrella of that ministry. I told the little board of 4 people who were really ready to close the doors that I was willing to be the Volunteer Director and promote this work of getting churches together to help those in need in our community. Continued on the next page.....

Spotlight on the Staff continued...

Continued from Spotlight on the Staff...

The board wanted to wait another month and have the national trainer come talk to them and do training for interested people. I was the only one who stepped up for this volunteer opportunity. During that month I had a lot of time to back out...smile.... During one worship service I kept thinking, "Lord, how am I going to get these Christians to work together? They wouldn't listen to me, a woman, blah blah blah...there was a lot of me's and I's in those questions to God. Then the worship team sang, **"If you can use anything Lord, You can use me, If you can use anything Lord, You can use me. Take my hands Lord, and my feet, touch my heart Lord, and speak through me, if you can use anything Lord, You can use me.....** and by the time they were done I'd cried a river in the presence of God! I knew if God could create the earth and all that is in it, He was very capable of building this ministry with any willing servant. Then, as if someone were sitting right next to me I heard as plain as day, **"He who has called you is faithful and He will do it!"** There has never been a doubt in my mind that that, was not a direct call from God, just as he spoke to Paul in the bible, He spoke to my heart of my assignment for Him, to bring the church together with a common purpose, to bring people closer in their walk with him, and to help meet the practical needs of our neighbors. To love our neighbors as God loves us. This was nothing short of a movement of God and He was allowing me to be a part of it! Every day is a walk of faith and of listening to what's on God's heart. Praying that He will work through us, through the church and it's members to help meet needs we have no way of knowing how they'd get met. We started out with 11 churches who wanted to work together and now there are over 190 that work with us in some way. There are about 30 that are very committed to being a part of the network and others kind of dabble with us. God is working on them though or he wouldn't have put them in my path. He never sends me on a wild goose hunt. He connects me with the most amazing giving, loving people from so many different denominations, all with one heart to reach out in whatever way they can do help someone else. Our first year budget was \$30,000 and we helped about 425 families. Currently we help over 4000 families a year and the budget is around \$240,000.00!

This staff of people I get to work with are the most devoted sacrificing group of people I've ever worked with. We all just do whatever needs to be done, because we are doing it for the Lord, not just a paycheck. It's not just a job, it's not the benefits....there is no medical and dental plan... it's a place that keeps us in God's presence, relying on him, and when you experience God's love here, you just want more of it. We aren't perfect people, none of us, but we are full of grace and when one is weak the others pick up the load and together we make an amazing team!

There are days I'm so exhausted from wearing about 10 different hats, then there are days I'm so fired up because I get to share with congregations about what God is doing in our community! I believe God created me for this specific assignment and I can't see myself doing anything else. There are over 500 churches in our county and even if I was privileged enough to get to speak to a different church every Sunday it would take 5 years just to reach them all and then I'd need to start all over again for the folks who didn't hear it the first time! I love talking with the women's groups, (no offense guys, but women seem to get things done!) Love INC is predominantly women volunteers, though we are lucky to get some guys once in a while. We have two great guys right now who volunteer in the office, a few more who help to make the holding crosses for us and lots who give financially to help us! I'm so blessed to get to meet so many different people throughout the churches and just thank God that He chose me and I believe if I just keep doing what I know to do I can trust Him to do the rest!

Sherry Phinisey Executive Director

Love INC Announcements

Love INC has a need for people who like to talk on the phones to help us help those in need. There are a variety of stations (areas where different tasks are done), some involve clients and some involve verifying information with Landlords or utility companies. We could also use a lot of help with people who can use the computer and help with data entry. Please call us if you'd like to be a part of this fun and adventurous ministry!

Love INC is also in need of people or Men's ministry teams who can lift and deliver donated furniture from our storehouse to client's homes. One Saturday every other month would be a blessing! Together we can do so much more than any one of us alone!! We have one group who has been able to help so far. We need more.

Please contact Sherry Phinisey at shephinisey@aol.com or call 253-468-6236 for more information about any of the above. **This is not an organization, but a movement of God!**

Requests from the Christian Bikers Tabernacle:

The need for the Friday and Saturday night feed is more apparent than ever as Churches feed approximately 175 to 225 at the beginning of the month, but grows to an estimated 250 to 300 people nightly as the month progresses. We are very fortunate to work with a number of other Churches, and want to thank all who work so hard to make this ministry such a success. For those Churches and individuals who would like to join in this area of the community outreach ministry, **we do have a need for Saturday night's food donations as the need is larger than the supply. Please contact Carleta Alexander at Christian Bikers Tabernacle for donation information at (253) 536-2584.**

They also have a great need for donations of **Cars and Travel Trailers**, they have homeless families currently staying in four state parks with children. They can take vehicles and travel trailers that require minor mechanical or cosmetic repairs. These donation would be a great blessing to these families in their time of need.

Pastor Ed is asking your support at this time in referring any work opportunities you have or referral of those you might hear about. "**Hosanna**" is General Contractor License # HOSANSC9570H, Bonded and Insured to do Remodeling and new Construction from houses, to barns, garages, driveways, parking lots, decks, trees and stump removal, pressure washing, seal coating and striping parking lots, and cement work. Call Pastor Ed at 253-677-4791 with information and he will be happy to speak with you regarding all jobs. We thank you for your continuing support in this area.

Father's House Ministry

Father's House Ministry is actively recruiting for a women's live-in Resident Manager for their house of 5 women to tentatively open in October. They are a faith-based organization and are looking for someone with similar values. Highlights of the position include being responsible for providing a safe environment for five ladies transitioning out of prison, drug or alcohol abuse, abandonment, abuse or on the verge of homelessness. You will oversee evening meals, chores and weekly house meetings. You will have a private room, meals and a cell phone will be provided. Hours daily from 5 p.m. – 8 a.m. Please email Jo Wenger at jowngr@yahoo.com

Love INC

9116 Gravelly Lake Dr. S.W. # B4

Lakewood, WA 98499

www.loveincpiercecouny.org

Referral # 253-531-2366

Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Puyallup, WA
Permit # 3

Return Service Requested

**Yes, I will help meet the financial needs of Love In The Name of Christ as indicated below:*

\$25__ \$50__ \$100__ \$250__ \$500__ Other \$ _____

Your Name _____

Email address: _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Donations can now be made directly on our website at www.loveincpiercecouny.org

OR

Please fill out the coupon and return it with your TAX DEDUCTIBLE financial gift to the address below:

Kindly make checks payable to Love INC and mail to:

Love INC, 9116 Gravelly Lake Dr. S.W. Lakewood, WA 98499

Thank You, for being an answer to prayer!

Love In the Name of Christ is a 501 (c) 3 corporation and your contributions are completely tax deductible. You will receive a tax receipt letter thanking you for your gift!